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C O N F I D E N T I A L LJUBLJANA 000011

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/NCE

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [SI](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: SLOVENIA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON NATO IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: SECSTATE 2743

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Dean J. Haas for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

1. (C) MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS: On 06 January, Pol-Miloff delivered reftel talking points to MFA Deputy Head of NATO Department Stanislav Vidovic. DAT and Pol-Miloff delivered reftel points to MoD Director for Defense Policy Uros Krek later the same day. Both Krek and Vidovic reiterated FoMin Dimitrij Rupel's 09 December statement from the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Brussels that Slovenia would strengthen its participation in ISAF during 2005. Krek said MoD officials are consulting with the German MoD about sending two Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) officers as observers to join a German-led PRT. Their task would be to determine in what ways Slovenia might contribute further to future PRTs, including the possibility of sending civilian experts to ISAF. Krek estimated that the two officers for the PRT would be given their orders by 15 February and that they would likely arrive in Afghanistan by early April. He said two SAF officers have already been selected for the mission and are "waiting for the green light from the Germans."

2. (C) CIVILIAN DEPLOYMENTS: The deployment of civilian experts to PRTs presents a more difficult issue, according to Krek, because Slovenian law does not allow sending civilians to join a military mission. (NOTE: The Slovenian firefighters currently guarding the Kabul airport became contract SAF reservists before their deployment. END NOTE) Nonetheless, Krek said legislation is now being drafted to support voluntary civilian deployments, and he estimated that the first Slovenian civilians - provided that any volunteer - would be ready to join PRTs in June 2005.

3. (C) MFA INSIGHTS: Vidovic gave much more generalized responses than Krek, saying only that a proposal for increased ISAF contributions was "in the consideration phase" and required coordination with MoD and the Slovenian Mission to NATO. Vidovic said that MoD and MFA would meet during the third week of January to discuss a proposal before forwarding it to the Government cabinet for action. Vidovic did, however, offer his opinion that PM Janez Jansa's new center-right coalition government had a "clear vision" about how to fulfill NATO Allies' expectations, "especially those of the United States." Vidovic very straightforwardly said that the former government lacked both the capacity and the will to live up to its responsibilities within NATO. He said the new government represents a "big hope" for ministry staffers working on NATO-related issues.

ROBERTSON

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